

St. Joseph School District

Involving Families: Activities and Strategies

Federal Programs Conference
September 27-29, 2005

Kay Denver
Director of Special Services

Barbara W. Martin, PhD
Coordinator of Title 1/ECE Services

Title 1 Schools

School-Wide

- ☐ Edison
- ☐ Humboldt
- ☐ Lake
- ☐ Lindbergh
- ☐ Neely
- ☐ Webster

Targeted Assistance

- ☐ Hall
- ☐ Ruth Huston Learning Center

Family Involvement Coordinators

- ❑ Family Involvement Coordinator in each school
- ❑ Title 1 schools range from 200+ to 400+ students
- ❑ Coordinators know their school families well
 - Planning and implementation of various activities and events reflect that knowledge

Communicating with Families

- Newsletters
- Invitations to events/activities
- Opportunities to donate time/materials
- Needs Assessment
- Program Evaluation
- Personal Contacts

Types of Activities and Events

- ❑ Large school-wide events
- ❑ Grade Level activities
- ❑ Topical events/activities

Promoting Involvement Creating “Community”

- Serving on planning committees
- Volunteering at school events
- Donating items
- Joining PTA
- Community Business Partners
- Incentives
 - extra tickets for a school event (carnival, etc.) or for door prize drawings
 - school T-shirt

Large, School-Wide Events

❑ Fall Family Night

Beginning of the year

Carnival-like activities

Run by teachers and PTA

Completed Needs Assessment form was the “ticket” to supper

❑ Health Fair

Booths with a variety of health-related information on nutrition, fire safety, blood pressure, electrical safety, etc.

Stickers for every booth visited. Page with stickers was entry for door prizes

A completed parent questionnaire was the “ticket” for turkey dinner

Large School-Wide events (cont.)

- ❑ Spaghetti Dinner

Families invited to a meal with the school staff serving as waiters and waitresses.

Followed by a Storyteller or other brief activity.

- ❑ Holiday Celebration

School gym filled with holiday-related activities and things to make.

Business partners assist in providing materials and working a booth.

Professional photographer available for holiday pictures.

Turkey dinner in the cafeteria with preschool children providing entertainment.

Grade-Level Events

- ❑ Kindergarten Club

Held right after school - many parents transport their children

Some topics included:

Big Clifford Caper - Clifford's birthday

Games to Play on a Winter Day

April Showers Bring May Flowers - planting flowers

- ❑ Bring a Guest to Lunch

Children are invited to have someone share lunch with them.

Grade-Level Events (cont.)

- ❑ “A Night with the Stars”

“The kids are eager to show off their MAP strategies!
Join us as your child shares their special MAP secrets.”

- ❑ “You are our Star Family of the Week!”

family shares information that is posted in the classroom

favorite: restaurant book
 toy color photos
 food

also asked to include: family members
 pet family

Grade-Level Events (cont.)

- Parents and Children Together (PACT) Time

Monthly activities that promote parents and children working and learning together.

Some topics have included:

Field trips and follow-up activities

Clown with face painting

Cooking

Making books

Math activities/games

Science experiments

Topical Events

- ❑ Books and Bingo

Families play Bingo and receive a free book

- ❑ “Family” Story Night (Books and Blankets)

“Bring your whole family (Grandpa, Grandma, Uncle, and Aunts) to listen to the amazing Will Stuck as he brings stories alive!

Children asked to wear their PJ's and bring a blanket.

Cookies and milk served. Every child receives a book.

- ❑ Parent/Teacher Conferences and Craft Activity

Topical Events (cont.)

- ❑ Moms & Muffins Dads and Donuts
- ❑ Lunch and Learn
 Lunch-time meetings (@ 45min.) around different topics.
 Topics have included: dental clinic, discipline, colds/flu
- ❑ Theme Birthday Parties
 Mickey Mouse
 Dr. Suess
 Laura Ingalls Wilder

Topical Events (cont.)

- Family Game Night

Families invited to play board games (as an alternative to TV and Video games).

Materials available to make games to take home.

- Make a Difference Day

Parents and their children made small receiving blankets to give to local social service agency.

Made of two layers of fleece with edges cut (fringe) - parents and children tied the ends together to make blankets.

This year, blankets will be going to an area hospice.

Topical Events (cont.)

- ❑ Computer Lab

Parents and children working on an activity of finding answers to a series of questions on a computer.

- ❑ Local “celebrities”

Local boxer who is a strong literacy advocate shared his own experiences and some fun activities related to reading.

- ❑ Book Fair

Hold related events during book fair. Video on choosing books for children, and speaker on “Reading: A Family Affair”

Resources

www.par-inst.com

for educators - free resources

www.nea.org

getting involved in your child's education

www.education-

world.com/a_special/parent_involvement.shtml

parent involvement in the schools

www.pta.org

parent resources

Resources (cont.)

www.projectappleseed.org

(National Campaign for Public School Improvement)

six standards of parental involvement

parental involvement checklist

www.ed.gov/parents/academic/help/hyc.html

Helping Your Child series*

involvement in my child's education

summer learning